

FROM THE CELL TO THE WOULD

to one, capturing their captain and all their munitions of war. The government retaliated by expelling all members of the family from Siena, proclaimed them rebels, and ordered their palaces and houses to be dismantled. But in the following March, 1375, ^{the} Florentines intervened, and sent Buonaccorso di Lapo Giovanni, Leonardo Strozzi, and Carlo Strozzi as ambassadors to bring about peace. The three came first to Siena and then went on to confer with the Salimbeni in Val d'Orcia. At the end of April, it was proclaimed to the sound of trumpets throughout Siena and in the lands of the Salimbeni that the whole matter had been referred to the decision of the Priors of the Commune of Florence.

The representatives of both parties were at Florence, engaged in the final negotiations, when news reached Tuscany of a more momentous peace having been made in northern Italy. On June 7, a courier rode into Pisa bearing an olive branch from Cardinal de Noellet, with the tidings that he had concluded at Bologna a truce for a year between the Holy See and Bernabo Visconti. Four days later, the symbolical olive and the official announcement of the truce was brought to Siena. In both cities the news was received with sorrow and apprehension ; men doubted the intentions and the good faith of the papal legate ; sinister rumours were spreading as to the movements of Hawkwood's mercenaries, whom the Church had dismissed from her service and who were approaching the Tuscan frontiers. "From this truce," writes the chronicler of Pisa, ^{the} there resulted such great evil that war followed through almost all the world."